

15 December 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ben Evans

SUBJECT : Background on President's Foreign Intelligence
Advisory Board

1. Perusal of the files you sent and of materials available in the History Staff did not turn up many specifics on the attitude of former Directors toward PFIAB. Some additional background information of possible interest is submitted below.

a. PFIAB (originally named President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities) apparently was created with a view to keeping the oversight function within the purview of the Executive Branch. Its formation in 1956 followed closely on the investigations of the Hoover Commission and Mansfield's introduction of a draft congressional resolution on intelligence. DCI Dulles participated in the selection of the original members.

b. During most of PFIAB's existence, its requests were handled through the Executive Director. DCI McCone, in addition, maintained personal contacts with successive Board Chairmen with whom he took the position that some of PFIAB's activities represented unwarranted interference and that its views were advisory only.

c. While Colby was DCI, PFIAB was enlarged and re-vitalized and began to concentrate on seeing that concerns of outside groups were reflected in the efforts of the intelligence community. Colby cooperated with the Board's suggestions, which included an expansion of economic intelligence and the use of outside specialists to critique strategic estimates.

Roberta Knapp
History Staff

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